

# ARKANSAS BROADBAND ADVISORY COUNCIL

## MEETING MINUTES AUGUST 21, 2007

Meeting was called to order by James Winningham at 9:10 a.m.

In attendance: Ed Allis  
Greg Ashcraft  
Dave Burdick  
Maryce Cunningham  
John Dreher  
George Hopkins  
Len Pitcock  
Wendy Wheeler  
James Winningham

Absent: Arl Cope  
Jim Dailey

1. Attendees introduced themselves and gave a short review of their background and experience relevant to the work of the Council.
2. James Winningham was elected Acting Chairman for this organizational meeting. Maryce Cunningham volunteered to take Minutes for this organizational meeting. A discussion followed on whether the group would expect to reach unanimity in all decisions and proposals amongst the members and with the Connect Arkansas group. It was decided that, since the group has an advisory capacity, unanimity was not required. While unanimity would be a primary goal, the group will strive for consensus and present the potential variety of opinions in its reports.
3. Act 604 discussion
  - a. James Winningham gave background information on the development of Act 604, which was passed during the 2007 legislative session and signed by Governor Beebe and which resulted in the creation of Connect Arkansas and the Arkansas Broadband Advisory Council.
    - i. Act was designed to make the advantages of broadband available to all of the citizens and organizations of Arkansas.
    - ii. Work will generally be based on the Connect Kentucky model. However, it is believed that Arkansas is in a better position to complete the task of preparing its citizens and organizations to take advantage of broadband because Arkansas is aware of the great broadband resource that it has in its EAST Labs and other high school organizations that are capable of helping provide broadband education to the citizens and organizations of its counties.
  - b. Connect Arkansas
    - i. Expected to:
      - collect coverage data from broadband providers and generate maps of the state showing broadband coverage
      - provide demographics and estimates of need
      - locate sources of funding for the deployment of broadband in areas where it does not already exist.

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- ii. Arkansas Capital Corp. has begun the process of establishing a broadly-based advisory board and creating a non-profit organization that can help find funding for the deployment of broadband in unserved areas.
  - iii. They have also created a draft plan of action and activity. James will request that each member of the Council receive a copy of that draft and invite someone from Connect Arkansas to attend the next Council meeting.
- c. Arkansas Broadband Advisory Council
  - i. The mission of the Council, its task, and reporting status were discussed at length
  - ii. We believe that we are commissioned by Act 604 of 2007 to be a primary source of broadband policy recommendation to the Governor and the Legislature
  - iii. We will research new and creative methods of distributing broadband that are in use or development locally, nationally, and worldwide
  - iv. We are required to provide an annual report to the Governor and the Legislature and a final report at the end of our commission (June 2012).
    - 1. It was suggested and agreed that we would put together an initial report as soon as practical and not wait an entire year to provide our first report.
    - 2. James will compose a letters to be sent to the Governor, President Pro Tem of the Senate, the Speaker of the House, and Legislative Counsel notifying them that we have met and have begun the Council's organizational process. A copy will be sent to Sen. Mark Pryor.
  - v. A list of Council members with their affiliation and the source of their appointment will be created. (Attached)
  - vi. George Hopkins initiated a discussion on the Council's FOI requirements.
    - 1. All meetings should be open and announcement in advance to the press is desirable.  
George will contact local media to find the best, most efficient method of alerting media to meetings/activities
    - 2. The Council's records, including emails, must be made available upon request in accordance with Arkansas FOI law.
  - vii. Attendance requirements presented.
    - 1. Members cannot have more than two consecutive unexcused absences from meetings without appropriate action according to Arkansas law.
    - 2. Conference-call capabilities will be arranged for those who might be traveling on business at the time of a meeting, and in the absence of conflicting law the Council will accept such phone participation as being present at the meeting.
- 4. The U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation will hold a Field Hearing at the Little Rock Public Library, 100 Rock Street, on Tuesday, August 28, beginning at 10:00 a.m. with U.S. Senator Mark Pryor presiding
  - a. Council members are welcome to attend the hearing and/or the receptions in Senator Pryor's office and the Clinton Presidential Library, which will be held the day before:
    - i. Senator Pryor's Little Rock Office Open House  
The River Market, 500 Clinton Avenue, Suite 401  
4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
    - ii. Arkansas Chamber of Commerce Reception Honoring Senator Mark Pryor and FCC Commissioners Copps and Adelstein  
Clinton Presidential Library Grand Ballroom  
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
  - b. Council members may introduce themselves to Senator Pryor as appointed members of the Council
  - c. There will be no Council testimony given at the hearing though various members of the Council will be testifying in representation of different Arkansas broadband interests.

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5. Other matters of business
  - a. Administrative Support
    - i. Support will be needed for meeting note-taking, mailings, creating reports, etc.
    - ii. Financial support will be needed for the above items, as well as for traveling both within and outside of the state to attend conferences and review innovative technologies.
    - iii. George Hopkins will contact the Legislative Staff to inquire about the possibility of acquiring these types of assistance.
  - b. James Winningham will work on the creation of an ABAC letterhead / logo
  - c. A meeting schedule will be set at the next meeting
  - d. Election of Chairman and Secretary
    - i. James Winningham was elected Chairman (nominated by George Hopkins, seconded by Greg Ashcraft, unanimous vote)
    - ii. Maryce Cunningham was elected Secretary (nominated by Greg Ashcraft, seconded by Ed Allis, unanimous vote)

Meeting adjourned – 11:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maryce J. Cunningham  
Secretary